

Remarks

Claims 1-25 are pending; claims 1, 14, 24, and 25 are independent.

Claims 1, 2, 14, 15, and 22-23 have been amended. Claims 24-25 have been newly added.

Support for the clarifying amendments of claims 1 and 14 can be found in the substitute Specification submitted September 19, 2005, for example, at page 1, line 24, page 2, line 3, page 4, lines 4-21, and FIGS. 1-6.

Claims 22-23 have been brought into accordance with their respective independent claims 14 and 1.

Claim 24 corresponds to a combination of claim 1 as amended and claims 2, 6, and 7.

Claim 25 correspond to a combination of claim 14 as amended and claims 15, 19, and 20.

Claims 1-8 and 11-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,389,325 to Rutkowski (hereinafter Rutkowski).

Claims 10 and 22-23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Rutkowski in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,236,299 to Nishiyama et al. (hereinafter Nishiyama).

Claims 9 and 21-23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Rutkowski in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,944,829 to Dando (hereinafter Dando).

In view of the amendment and the following remarks, applicants submit that the amended claims are patentable.

Amended claim 1 covers user interfaces of a machine tool that have a display that is divided into at least a first display region and a second display region.

The first display region permanently displays a main menu that comprises a plurality of permanently displayed menu-fields for selecting different main activity modes of the machine tool. Each menu-field corresponds to one of the main activity modes of the machine tool. The first display region permanently displays which one of the main activity modes of the machine tool is selected.

Each main activity mode is associated with a main window such that a respective main window is opened in the second display region when the menu-field of the associated main activity mode is selected in the main menu. The main windows are displayed one at a time depending on the main activity mode selected in the main menu.

At least one of the main windows comprises a submenu comprising a plurality of submenu-fields for selecting subitems, each submenu-field corresponding to a different subitem of the main activity associated to said main window. The submenu-fields are permanently displayed in said main window, when the respective main window is opened, and each submenu-field is associated with a subwindow such that the subwindow is opened in said main window when its associated submenu-field is selected.

If in an original main activity mode, a particular subwindow was opened and a user switched from the original main activity mode to another main activity mode, then if the user switches back to the original main activity mode, the particular subwindow is opened upon return into the original main activity mode.

Moreover, one or more of the main windows and the subwindows include input fields and the user interface further includes an input unit for selecting the individual menu-fields and submenu-fields and for processing the input fields provided in a window.

Patentability of claim 1

Rutkowski does not describe or suggest a user interface with:

- a first display region that “permanently displays a main menu that comprises a plurality of permanently displayed menu-fields for selecting different main activity modes of the machine tool;”
- “a first display region that permanently displays which one of the main activity modes of the machine tool is selected;”
- “main windows [] displayed one at a time [in a second display region] depending on the main activity mode selected in the main activity menu;”

- “at least one of the main windows comprises a submenu comprising a plurality of submenu-fields for selecting subitems, [] wherein the submenu-fields are permanently displayed in said main window, when the respective main window is opened, and each submenu-field is associated with a subwindow such that the subwindow is opened in said main window when its associated submenu-field is selected;” and
- the functionality that, “if in an original main activity mode, a particular subwindow was opened and a user switched from the original main activity mode to another main activity mode, then if the user switches back to the original main activity mode, the particular subwindow is opened upon return into the original main activity mode” as recited in amended claim 1.

These features of claim 1 can provide in combination the effect that the user interface is obtained with a clear arrangement, wherein flexible processing is supported by comfortable switching between different main activity modes.

In FIG. 2 (reproduced below), Rutkowski shows a display 10 with a title line 11 and windows 20, 30.

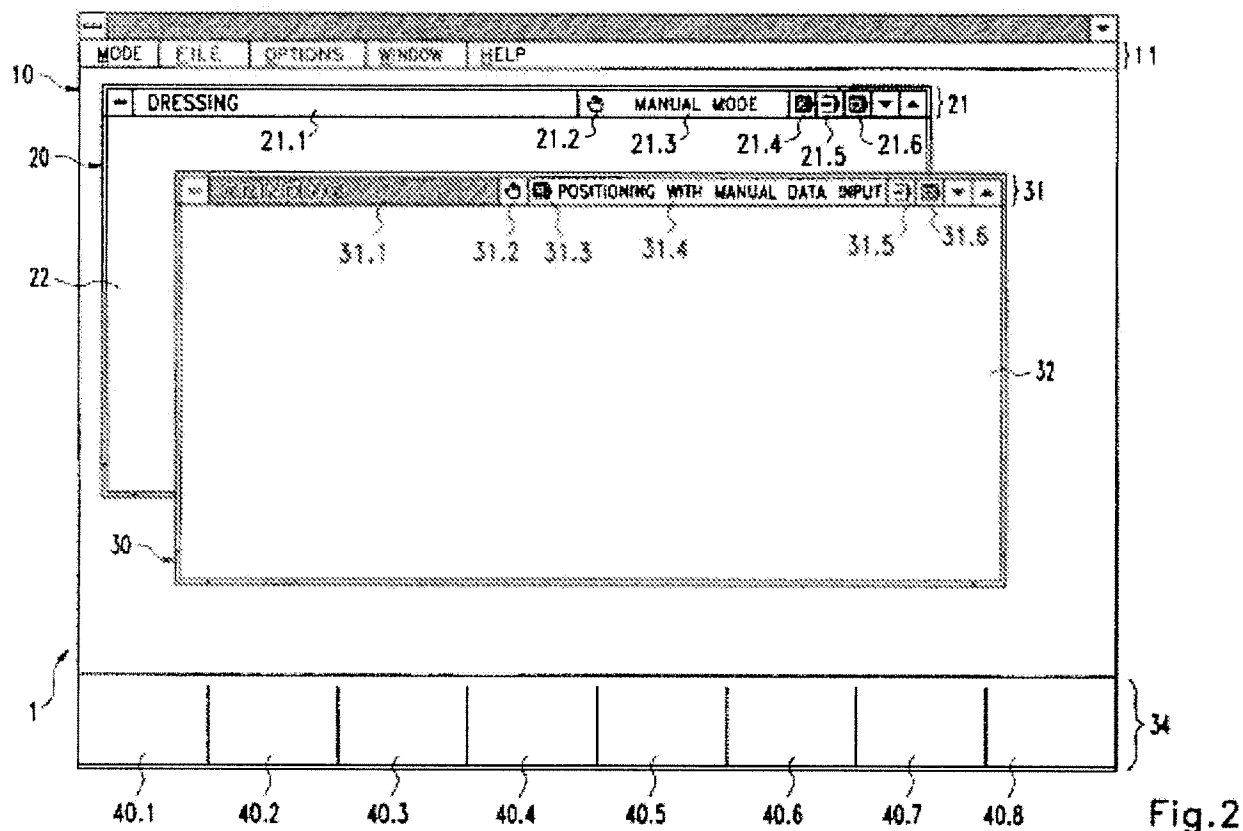


Fig.2

The Office alleges that title line 11 corresponds to the main menu displayed in the first display region recited in claim 1.

However, title line 11 of display 10 is configured as a conventional pull-down menu. For example, title line 11 includes a drop down menu item "WINDOW" with *pull-down menu-fields* for actual activation of a desired display window 20, 30. The pull-down menu fields are only shown if one activates (clicks on) the menu item "WINDOW." *See*, for example, Rutkowski, col. 5, lines 4-16. In other words, title line 11 does not include permanently displayed menu-fields of a main menu for selecting display windows as required by claim 1.

The Office refers to Rutkowski at col. 2, lines 55-65 for the feature of the first display region of claim 1 to "permanently display[[s]] which one of the main activity modes of the machine tool is selected."

In Rutkowski, Applicants do not find any disclosure that title line 11, which allegedly corresponds to the first display region, permanently displays which display window 20, 30 is activated.

The quoted paragraph addresses generally the concept of “to visually present particular information on the display unit 1.” However, the quoted paragraph does not disclose or suggest that information about a specific window or processing function is permanently displayed in title line 11. Moreover, the Office did not provide any reason why a person of ordinary skill in the art would have included a field in Rutkowski's title line 11 that permanently displays the selected window or processing function.

Accordingly, Rutkowski does not disclose or suggest for title line 11 to permanently display which one of the windows is selected.

The Office alleges that display windows 20, 30 correspond to the main windows recited in claim 1.

In FIG. 2, display windows 20, 30 are displayed at the same time. This allows, for example, activating display windows 20, 30 with a “pointer device.” *See*, for example, Rutkowski, col. 5, lines 4-16.

Accordingly, Rutkowski does not disclose or suggest that windows 20, 30 are displayed one at a time.

The Office refers to Rutkowski at col. 3, lines 15-17 for the disclosure of a subwindow that is opened when an associated submode is selected.

This quotation relates to title line 11, which the Office alleges to correspond to the first display region and not to the second display region. Applicants could not find any disclosure in Rutkowski of permanently displayed submenu-fields in connection with display windows 20, 30. Applicants also could not find any disclosure of a subwindow that is opened in a main window when its associated submenu-field is selected.

Instead, Rutkowski discloses title lines 21, 31 for display windows 20, 30, respectively. Those title lines 21, 31 provide areas for displaying, for example, information about the state of operation. *See*, for example, col. 4, lines 5-18. Those areas are for display of information only and can not be selected. Thus, those areas do not correspond the claimed submenu-fields.

Title lines 21, 31 further provide submenus with pull-down menus. *See*, for example, col. 4, lines 5-18. However, pull-down menus are not permanently displayed.

Various information related to the processing unit associated with the display window 20, 30 is provided in display areas 22, 32 of display windows 20, 30. *See*, for example, col. 4, lines 5-31. However, applicants could not find any disclosure that the pull-down menus cause additional subwindows to open. Instead, display windows 20, 30 are themselves used for displaying that information.

Accordingly, Rutkowski does not disclose or suggest that submenu-fields are permanently displayed for selecting subitems and that activating a submenu-field causes the opening of a subwindow.

The Office acknowledges that Rutkowski does not explicitly discloses the functionality that, “if in an original main activity mode, a particular subwindow was opened and a user switched from the original main activity mode to another main activity mode, then if the user switches back to the original main activity mode, the particular subwindow is opened upon return into the original main activity mode,” and argues that this feature would have been obvious for a person of ordinary skill in the art in view of Rutkowski. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

As explained above, Rutkowski does not disclose a subwindow and does not display one window at a time. Thus, implementing the foregoing functionality when operating Rutkowski's display 1 would have required multiple modifications of the operation of display 1. In view of Rutkowski's system being configured for simultaneous execution of various processing tasks, a person of ordinary skill in the art would not have considered those modifications. Thus, the

Office uses hindsight when alleging that the above functionality would have been obvious in view of Rutkowski.

In view of the amendments and the foregoing remarks, applicants submit that claim 1 and its dependent claims should be allowable.

Patentability of claim 14

The arguments presented above for claim 1 are equally valid for claim 14. Thus, applicants submit that claim 14 and its dependent claims should also be allowable.

Patentability of claims 24 and 25

Claim 24 covers user interfaces of a machine tool and recites “that [a] menu-field of [a] selected main activity mode is permanently marked in [a] permanently displayed main menu.”

In addition, claim 24 recites that “at least one of the main windows and the subwindows comprises at least one activity button for processing input fields provided therein, in which each activity button is associated with an activity button window, wherein when said activity button window is opened by selection of the associated activity button, switching-over to a different subwindow of the same main activity mode is blocked.”

A user interface covered by claim 24 can permit flexible processing by easy switching between main windows anytime, except that the workflow can be supported by the above blocking function on the level of subwindows.

A user interface organized in this way is not disclosed or suggested by Rutkowski.

The arguments presented above for claim 1 are equally valid for claim 24.

Moreover, Rutkowski does not disclose permanently marking one of the pull-down menu-fields of the pull-down menu in title line 11.

The Office acknowledges further that Rutkowski does not specifically disclose the feature “when an activity button window is opened, switching-over to a different main window,

subwindow, or sub-subwindow of the same main activity mode is blocked,” but refers to col. 5, lines 18-25 for the disclosure of multiple operating states or modes of operation for each processing unit or processing channel. The Office seems to allege that the pure presence of multiple operating states or modes of operation would have motivated a person of ordinary skill in the art to implement the above blocking function.

Applicants respectfully disagree because in view of Rutkowski's system being configured for “simultaneous execution of various processing tasks,” a person of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to provide easy access to all of them. Thus, the Office uses hindsight when alleging that the above blocking function would have been obvious in view of Rutkowski.

The arguments presented above for claim 24 are equally valid for claim 25. Thus, applicants submit that claims 24 and 25 should be allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the above, applicants ask that the application be allowed. To the extent the Office disagrees, the Office is invited to contact the undersigned to discuss the matter further.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

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The fees for a Two Month Extension of Time of \$490 is being paid concurrently herewith on the Electronic Filing System (EFS) by way of Deposit Account authorization to cover the required fee. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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